

KNIGHTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer's Report for 1948

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1948.

Population. The estimated population for 1948 was 1841.

Overcrowding. A good many houses do not conform to statutory requirements - only the provision of new houses will remedy this situation.

Housing. No new houses were erected by the Council this year but two new houses have been erected by private enterprise. A site was acquired (see 1947 report) for the erection of 10 Airy houses and at the time of writing the present report the site has been cleared and foundations marked out.

Transport. Three firms in Knighton run bus services; the surrounding area is well covered and extension of the services is anticipated in the near future.

Industries. No new industries have been started but extensions and improvements have been made to the Radnorshire Company's seed-dressing building and timber yards and to the Tyre re-treading factory owned by Mr. S.W. Brisbane.

Schools. No new developments.

Cemetery. No new developments.

Ambulance. The ambulance owned by the Urban District Council has been taken over by the County Authority and, although still stationed at Knighton, is operated from the Ambulance Centre at Llandrindod Wells.

Nursing. I note with regret the retirement of the senior District Nurse, Nurse Tate, since when the area has been served by one resident nurse and a relief nurse. This state of affairs should be remedied as the town and surrounding district requires at least two resident nurses.

Hospitals. The hospital (Offa's Lodge) ceased to function as a Poor Law Institution on July 5th and came under the control of the Brecon and Radnor Joint Hospital Board. There is room here for extension of bed accommodation and possibly for the setting-up of an experimental Health Centre (a brief report on the subject was submitted by me in a letter to the Chief Medical Officer, Welsh Board of Health). There is no doubt that provision of more beds for medical, maternity and convalescent surgical cases, together with a surgery centre operated by local general practitioners, would make an efficient unit and integrate the medical services over a wide urban and rural area.

Water. The water supply has been satisfactory in quantity. There is still intermittent contamination of the Cwm Ifor source and attempts to remedy this are being made by drainage of the yard of Jenkinallis farm to a septic tank. All water passes through chlorinators before admission to the storage tanks and the piped supply is satisfactory. No water is used from the Cwm Ifor supply above the chlorinator. The water is not plumbosolvent.

Water (continued). A scheme to extend the town mains from Bridge Street to the Fromhir Housing Estate has been approved by the Welsh Board of Health and the work will be put in hand early in 1949.

Sewage. Owing to reported blockage of a sewer in Bridge Street a new manhole was constructed and 37 yards of sewer was relaid with 12 inch asbestos pipes.

Refuse Disposal. A new Karrier Bantan 7 cubic yard refuse collection lorry was purchased to replace the old Commer vehicle.

Livestock Market. The Council completed the purchase of the site for the new livestock market and the work of levelling, reconstruction and widening of approaches has commenced.

Infectious Diseases. There were three notifications:

Whooping Cough:	1 male - aged 12 years
Scarlet Fever:	1 male - aged 8 years
Pneumonia:	1 female - aged 9 months

Tuberculosis. One case of pulmonary tuberculosis - a male aged 32 years - was notified as having moved into this district from another area.
Deaths from Tuberculosis - Nil

Carcinoma. There were three deaths from carcinoma:

1 male - aged 80 years - Stomach
1 female - aged 53 years - Cervix uteri
1 female - aged 63 years - Ovary

Births. 12 live births were reported - 5 male and 7 female.
There were no still-births registered and no illegitimate births.

Deaths. There were 53 deaths - 15 male and 18 female.

Deaths under one year. Three deaths were reported in this category.
The causes were as follows:

Prematurity - 1 female aged 12 hours.
Congenital heart disease: 1 female aged 5 months
Atelectasis - 1 male aged 2 days

Contagious Diseases. No change from situation reported in 1947.

Diphtheria Immunisation. No change from situation reported in 1947.

National Health Service. The new service which commenced on 5th July is likely to make profound changes in the conduct of medical practice. Although in principle one cannot criticise the provisions of the service it has already resulted in increased work for general practitioners serving the town and surrounding districts. There is an increasing tendency for the time of skilled practitioners to be taken up by trivial duties which, one feels, could be adequately met by less highly-trained personnel. The result will be a lowering of the standard of medical practice unless minor duties can be relegated to less skilled deputies or the work is reorganised by the provision of assistant staff and better facilities and accommodation at some form of clinic or health centre.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

- (a) Milk Supply: Cowsheds and Dairies are frequently inspected and are generally satisfactory.
- (b) Meat and other foods: Regular inspections are made of slaughter-houses, shops, stalls and vehicles and places where food is prepared and offered for sale and no special action has been found necessary.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle including Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	103	72	60	4303	13
Number inspected	103	72	60	4308	13
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcases condemned	2	8	6	49	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	67	58	2	336	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	67%	91%	15%	9%	51%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned	1	4	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	9	-	-	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1%	13%	-	-	15%

- (c) Food poisoning. There were no cases of food poisoning reported during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

G.H.H. BOOTH

